

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01473 271525Z

67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 042289

R 271230Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0148

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL CONAKRY 1473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV ET

SUBJECT : PRESIDE

T TOURE DENOUNCES VOA COVERATE OF EVENTS

IN ETHIOPIA

1. AT END OF LONG CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 25, PRESIDENT TOURE ASKED ME HOW US VIEWED CURRENT HAPPENINGS IN ETHIOPIA. SAID MEMBERS OF HIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PRESSING HIM FOR HIS VIEWS, WHICH HE HAD AVOIDED GIVING SO FAR BUT WOULD HAVE TO GIVE SOON. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO RESPOND AT THIS TIME, SINCE SITUATION APPEARS TO CHANGE DAILY AND IS FAR FROM CLEAR. US BELIEVES ESSENTIALLY THAT IT IS INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN MATTER, AND US AS MATTER OF POLICY DOES NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. WE HAVE MAINTAINED WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS WITH CURRENT REGIME, BUT HAVE PLAYED DOWN QUESTION OF RECOGNITION. PERSONALLY I REGRETTED MANNER TREATING HAILE SELASSIE WHO WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND WORLD AS DEFENDER OF HIS COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AND ADVOCATE OF AFRICAN LIBERATION.

2. PRESIDENT TOURE RESPONDED THAT WHAT HE HAD TO SAY MIGHT SEEM SURPRISING, IN VIEW OF HIS REPUTATION AS A REVOLUTIONARY LEADER, BUT HE WAS SHOCKED BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO EMPEROR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 01473 271525Z

HAILE SELASSIE. IN PARTICULAR, HE WAS SHOCKED AND OFFENDED

BY MANNER IN WHICH THESE EVENTS WERE COVERED BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA, WHICH WAS ALWAYS FIRST WITH DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PROGRESSIVE DEGRADATION OF THE EMPEROR -- "DRAGGING THE EMPEROR THROUGH THE MUD", AS HE PUT IT. HAILE SELASSIE, HE SAID, WAS KNOWN BY ALL, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, AS OLD AND FIRM FRIEND OF USTEND HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED FAR DIFFERENT TREATMENT FROM OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT RADIO. TOURE SAID THAT VOA COVERAGE WILL HURT US IN EYES OF MANY AFRICANS, "THOUGH OTHERS MAY NOT SAY SO AS FRANKLY".

3. TOURE SAID THAT HE NATURALLY WELCOMED DEMOCRATIZATION IN ETHIOPIA AND HAD PERSONALLY ADVISED THE EMPEROR MANY TIMES TO COME TO TERMS WITH PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND TO END HIS LONG CAREER WITH DIGNITY. HE HAD SENT HAND-WRITTEN LETTERS AND HAD SENT SPECIAL DELEGATIONS JUST FOR THIS PURPOSE. TOURE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT DISAGREE WITH THE EMPEROR, HE HAD GREATEST RESPECT FOR HAILE SELASSIE'S LONG AND HONORABLE CAREER AND -- HE STRESSED ONCE AGAIN -- HIS DIGNITY.

TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR01473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740273-0614
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974099/aaaaagzx.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : PRESIDE T TOURE DENOUNCES VOA COVERATE OF EVENTS
TAGS: PFOR, GV, ET, VOA, (TOURE, AHMED SEKOU), (HAILE SELASSIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005